(d) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake relief measures, in the wake of natural calamities, from the assistance provided to them under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), in accordance with the guidelines issued to them from time to time. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in the Report for the year ended March, 1998, has brought out irregularities like diversion of funds, expenditure in excess of norms, misappropriation and embezzlement committed by some States in the disbursal of assistance provided to them under CRF. These have been brought to the notice of the State Government concerned for suitable necessary action, as the expenditure out of CRF is controlled by the respective State Governments.

Improvisation in agricultural implements

17. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item titled "From heart of rural area; Bullock Cart with brakes, amalgamation of plough with Bullet mobike" which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 5th January, 2000; and

(b) if so, what are views of Government on Bullock Cart with brakes and amalgamation of plough with Bullet mobike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the innovations such as Bullock Cart with brakes and amalgamation of plough with Bullet mobike carried out by some entrepreneurs in Gujarat. A project on development of low cost tilting bullock cart has been funded under the "Technopreneur Promotion Programme" jointly operated by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

(DSIR) and the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) under the Department of Science and Technology Any innovation is always welcome.

Centrally sponsored schemes for agricultural production

18. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes implemented by Government in the State of Assam for increasing the agriculture production during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievements made under these schemes during this period; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The list of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the State of Assam for increasing agricultural production is given in the statement-l *(See* below).

(b) the details of achievements with regard to major agricultural indicators during the last three years are given in the statement-ll *(See* below).

(c) To realize the full potential of the agriculture sector in N.E. States, Government attaches utmost importance to this region. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is earmarking 10% of total Plan Funds for N.E. States, and the States can also benefit from the recently created non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources to build infrastructure net work. The Department has also evolved a Technology Mission on Horticulture to give a boost to Horticulture production in the region.